

# Stonington Recreation

## 2021 Men's Softball League Bylaws

Revised 3/3/2021

**CAPTAIN'S MEETING:** Held mid-April (date TBD) at the Rec office within the Human Services Building. All captains who plan to have a team in the league should be present or send a representative from their team. Rules, schedule, and registration process will be discussed. Registration information will be provided at this time.

**COVID-19:** It will be our priority to keep all of our participants safe by adhering to all current Covid-19 protocols and guidance from the State of CT. A separate Document will outline these protocols.

**FEES & REGISTRATION:** Season fees are based upon when payment is received.

### **2021 Season Fees:**

\$500 if paid on or before the scheduled captains meeting date

\$575 if paid on or before the first scheduled game

\$1200 late payment fee after first scheduled game

Teams risk forfeiture of games if payment is not received by the 3<sup>rd</sup> game of the year.

- All players must register individually on RecDesk: [www.stonington.recdesk.com](http://www.stonington.recdesk.com) and check off Code of Conduct questions. Players cannot participate until registration is completed and on file with league officials.

All fees and forms can be dropped off or mailed to: Stonington Human Services, 166 South Broad St., Pawcatuck, CT 06379.

Any returned sponsor/player checks for insufficient funds will result in a team/player being suspended until the fee due is paid plus an additional \$25 returned check fee. At that time, only cash, certified bank check or money orders will be accepted as payment.

### **SCHEDULE**

- 1) Regular season games will begin with week of April 26, 2021. Games will be played on Tuesdays, and/or Thursdays starting at 6:00 PM, 7:00PM, or 8:00PM  
USSSA rules will apply.
- 2) Every attempt will be made to cancel evening games due to rain, etc by 4PM. Notice will be sent to all captains, and in turn, Captains will notify their individual players. You may call Human Services main line at 535-5015 if you have any questions about the weather. If the weather or field conditions change after 4PM, the supervisor or umpires at the field will cancel the game.
- 3) If a game is called due to rain, lightning, light failure, etc., it will be continued at a make-up date reverting back to the last completed inning.
  - a. All games, except those shortened by the mercy rule, must be seven innings.
- 4) Each team will be allowed 2 forfeits during the season. If a team forfeits a third time, they will be ineligible for the playoffs.
- 5) Playoffs will be determined by the number of teams in the league. Each round of the playoffs will be at least a best of 3 series.
  - a. In case of a two-way tie, the tie-breaker system will be:
    - i. Head to Head.
    - ii. Record verses other playoff teams.
    - iii. Record verses 1st place team, then 2nd, 3rd, etc. until resolved.

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- b. In case of a three-way tie, the tie-breaker system will be:
    - i. Head to Head.
    - ii. Record verses other two tied teams if schedule is even.
    - iii. Record verses other playoff teams.
    - iv. Record verses 1st place team, then 2nd, 3rd, etc. until resolved.
- 6) For a player to be eligible for the playoffs, he must participate in a minimum of 40% of the regular season games. Example: (10 of 24).
  - a. If a player has not participated in 40% of the games and there is a tie breaker playoff game, then that player will not be eligible for that game.
  - b. In the case of an injured player(s) present at the game, that player can check in with the scorekeeper and the opposing team's coach to get credit for the game.
- 7) Any protest must be submitted in writing within twenty-four hours to the Recreation Administrator in writing.
- 8) There will be no games Memorial Day, Independence Day.
- 9) Minimum of 12 players; maximum of 22 players on roster.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

- 1.) All players must be 18 years of age or have their high school class graduate during the season.
- 2.) A player will be found illegal and ineligible for play if it is determined that his home address or work place address has been falsely reported on the roster/registration form or registration form, Code of Conduct and player fee have not been submitted. The team he is registered with will forfeit all games in which the player participated.
- 3.) All new players added to the roster during the season must complete a registration form, Code of Conduct Contract and pay the applicable fee before able to play in any game.
- 4.) No player will be allowed to play if his registration form, Code of Conduct and player fee have not been submitted.
- 5.) If a team uses a non-roster player, the game will be declared an automatic forfeit for that player's team.

### **RULES**

- 1.) Each team will be given a 15-minute grace period for the first game of the night from the scheduled start to field a team. After the grace period, the umpires may declare a forfeit.
- 2.) Each team will use only 10 men defensively. There Must be a Pitcher, Catcher, 4 Infielders, 3 Outfielders, and 1 extra player where ever the team chooses.
- 3.) Type of pitch permitted:
  - a. The ball must be pitched underhanded at slow speed.
  - b. The pitch must have a perceptible arc, having a minimum height of six (6) feet from the ground, and a maximum height of ten (12) feet from the ground, in the umpire's judgment.
- 4.) The ball and strike count will adhere to the following guidelines:
  - a. Each batter will start with a 1 and 1 count.
  - b. A Pitch that lands on either Home plate or the Strike Zone Mat is a strike.
  - c. The batter is out, and the ball is dead on the first foul ball after two (2) strikes.

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- 5.) The Mercy Rule is as follows:
  - a. A win will be awarded to the team ahead by 20 or more runs after 3 innings of play; 15 after 4 innings, 12 after 5 innings.
  - b. The home team will always get to bat in the bottom half of the inning.
- 6.) When running the bases you must slide to avoid disruption in the play. If not, base runner will be issued one warning and second warning will be ejection from the game. It will be umpire discretion in regards to sliding at home. If there is no play then no need to slide.
- 7.) To avoid forfeits, any team may "borrow" eligible players from another roster for a maximum of 2 games during a season. No more than 2 players may be borrowed for any one game. These players will be positioned as catcher and/or then right field and will be last and second to last in the batting order. Borrowing players in the Playoffs is NOT ALLOWED!
- 8.) A team can add only the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> player at any time. The 12<sup>th</sup> player will have to be added as a substitute.
- 9.) A pinch runner will be the last person to make an out. If the leadoff batter of an inning requires a runner it will be the last out of the previous inning.

### **EQUIPMENT**

- 1) All players must wear matching shirts. A two-week grace period will be given at the beginning of the season.
- 2) If shorts are worn, they must be athletic type shorts. No jean or cargo shorts are allowed. If athletic shorts are not worn, the player will not be able to play in the game.
- 3) Bat Rule: All bats on the USSSA or ASA Approved Equipment List are permitted.
  - a. Composite bats will be allowed, no double wall or triple wall bats. If a captain knows a bat to be illegal, he must notify the umpire immediately. The umpire and/or supervisor will determine if it is illegal or not. The batter will be out and bat removed from the game if it is found to be illegal. See website list in press box for further information.
  - b. Any bat can be reviewed and removed at anytime during a game throughout the season by the league director only. If the bat is thought to be illegal then it will be sent to the bat manufacturer for official testing.
  - c. If a Player withholds a suspected altered bat from inspection or refuses to allow the league director to send the suspected bat to the manufacturer of the bat for a determination as to whether or not the bat is altered, the player in question will be suspended from league play.
  - d. Any player caught using an altered bat will be automatically suspended from league play for duration of time determined by director. If the same team is caught using an altered bat for the second time, the entire team will be suspended for the remainder of the regular season and playoffs.
  - e. After examination of a bat to determine if it is altered, the bat shall be returned to the owner. No suspensions will occur unless the bat is determined to be altered.
  - f. Any player caught using an illegal bat that is not on the USSSA Approved Equipment List will be given a warning and told not to use the bat again. Any player caught using an illegal bat that is not on the USSSA Approved Equipment List for a second time will automatically receive a ten game suspension. Any player caught using an illegal bat that is not on the USSSA Approved Equipment List for a third time will be automatically suspended from league play for one calendar year.

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- g. An Altered Bat is as follow:
  - i. The surface of the barrel or the taper changed in any way such as by sandpapering or applying a solvent to the surface such as fingernail polish remover or by any other means. The plug/rod has been removed/replaced or changed in any way. The knob removed /replaced or changed in any way
  - ii. If anything removed or added to the inside or outside of the bat other than tape at the handle or knob.
  - iii. Cracked, worn (paint/lettering wear is not a problem so long as the bat can be identified and has the appropriate BPF marking, but any wearing of the bat material or identifying paint or BPF wear will be cause for removal) or damaged bats are not altered bats, but will also be removed from play umpires. Such cracked, worn or damaged bats will not result in player suspension, unless the player returns the offending bat into play after it has been removed or the bat is also altered.
- 4) The official league ball shall have an optic yellow cover with the threads being either flat seam or concealed stitch type which gives a flat surface. The internal composition of the core and the material of the cover must be clearly printed on the ball. The COR shall be .40 with the compression being no more than 325 pounds. Trump® Classic M X-Rock 12" Softballs- 40cor/325 Compression - USSSA Approved
- 5) Slow Pitch Strike Zone Mat
- 6) Double Safety Bag (White/Orange 1st Base)
  - a. The double safety bag is considered one base. The offense/defense can hit either side.

### **PLAYER CONDUCT**

- 1) There is absolutely no drinking, smoking, or other drug use allowed in recreational areas.
- 2) No participant or coach shall appear in, on, or around a facility at any time under the influence or in possession of drugs or alcohol. This will result in a suspension. They will be asked to leave the area immediately and may include police involvement.
- 3) Any person found drinking in public in the Recreation Complex will be suspended for four games. If this happens a second time they will be suspended for the remainder of the season. Any police officer, Human Services staff member, including the Recreation Administrator, or Recreation Commission member can document this incident and enforce this policy, which is reflective of the town ordinance concerning public drinking.
- 4) Any player found drinking during a softball game in the field/dugout area will be suspended immediately for 20 consecutive games and is subject to police action.
- 5) All players are expected to behave and act appropriately. Refusal to leave or any other disorderly conduct will result in the Police being called as well as forfeiture of the game.
- 6) Any excessive profanity, unsportsmanlike, throwing/slamming equipment, or pounding on the dugouts will result in ejection by the umpire. This conduct will not be tolerated and result in ejection from the game and area. If ejected, the player must sit out his team's next scheduled game.
  - a. Any player(s) that has been ejected from their second game of the season or are a disciplinary problem will be brought before the League Board to determine if further punishment is needed.

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- b. Failure to leave the area and grounds in a timely and courteous fashion will warrant the team's forfeiture of game.
- 7) Physical aggression toward an official, spectator, player, or staff member will result in a forfeiture of a game by one or both teams as well as suspensions and potential police action. This includes laying a hand upon, pushing, shoving, striking, or kicking anyone.
- 8) All trash and debris must be picked up and deposited in trashcans at the conclusion of each game. This is the responsibility of the captains and players.
- 9) No participant or spectator shall damage or deface the facility.
- 10) No participant shall engage in "trash talking" or taunting of any participant, official, staff, or spectator.
- 11) No participant shall refuse to abide by an official's decision or be guilty of verbal or forceful demonstrations of dissent.

### **PENALTIES**

- 1) The supervisor, officials, Recreation Administrator and Human Services Director have the right to enforce the rules and regulations of the sport and to assess the penalties and/or suspension described herein.
- 2) Participation in this program is a privilege, which may be denied or suspended for violation of the rules and regulations.
- 3) A player ejected the first time will be suspended for one game and will pay \$25 fine prior to returning. A second ejection will result in a two-game suspension and a \$75 fine before returning. A third ejection will result in suspension from the league for the remainder of the season and a \$100 fine prior to playing in any future town recreational activity.
- 4) Any player or spectator found to have engaged in a physical assault/contact of an official, player, or spectator shall be suspended for one year of the date the offence occurred. A second offence will result in additional time. Police action may also occur.
- 5) All penalties deemed to be more serious in nature might cause a review by the Recreation Commission and Human Services Director.